

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

# October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

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### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1 Ebola Watch

Have you heard about the Ebola virus spreading around West Africa? How can countries around the world prevent Ebola from spreading and getting their people sick? This first story is about how Canada is working to prevent Ebola from crossing its borders and entering the country.

### Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match words with definitions.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	1. proper	a) a sick or injured person who is admitted to stay in the hospital
	2. possible	b) to look carefully at or check for something
	3. patient	c) a person who has the power to act in some capacity
	4. diagnose	d) appropriate or suitable for something; well fitted
	5. screen	e) warning signs
	6. border	f) to decide on the type of sickness or disease someone has
	7. agent	g) may or can happen
	8. red-flags	h) the edge of a district, the division between two countries or areas

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**Ebola** – a deadly virus that causes internal bleeding (bleeding inside a person's body)

**Chief Medical Officer of Health**- the person responsible for medicine and health in Canada

**Listening and Taking Notes:** Now listen to the first news story from the audio and take notes on these topics. The answers to “why” are not given directly, so you will have to infer (guess) the answers from the information you have. *Answers are in the appendix*

Who?	What?	Where?	When?	Why?
Alberta health officials				
Agents and airlines				

**Retell the story:** Look at your notes and retell the story you just heard in your own words to a partner.

## News story #2 By-Elections in Alberta

Do you know much about politics in Canada? Do you know what the word democracy means? Democracy is Canada's form of government in which all adult Canadian citizens are allowed to take part in putting together their government by voting. This second story is about the Premier of Alberta, Jim Prentice, calling four by-elections in Alberta today.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words from the story	Related words
	1. elections	a) unexpected unsure
	2. legislature	b) bet wager
	3. stakes	c) expand separate
	4. riding	d) decision selection
	5. wild card	e) other side rival
	6. spread	f) make less lessen
	7. opposition	g) lawmakers' house parliament
	8. reduce	h) constituency electoral district/area

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**By-elections** – special elections that happen between normal elections to fill the spot of someone who was previously in political office and has usually either died or quit.

**Tories** – a term for the conservative political party in Canada

### Listening Activity: True/False

Now

listen to the second news story from the audio file and decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ Jim Prentice called for three by-elections in Alberta today.
2. \_\_\_\_ Prentice has a seat in the legislature in the Calgary Foothills.
3. \_\_\_\_ This election is high-stakes for Prentice and the others running in the by-election.
4. \_\_\_\_ Duane Bratt thinks the Tories will win in three quarters of the by-election ridings.
5. \_\_\_\_ Calgary Elbow is a wild card and it is likely that the Tories will win there.
6. \_\_\_\_ By having 4 elections on one day there will be less attention paid to Prentice.

**Discussion:** Is it important to let people vote for who is in their government? If so, why? Are you allowed to vote in your home country? Why might some people decide not to vote, even though they are legally allowed to?

### News story #3 Halal Meat at the U of C

Do you have specific food that you can or cannot eat for some reason? Do you know of any religions that want their followers to eat or not eat certain foods? This next story is about how the cafeteria in the University of Calgary is now including Halal meat on the menu for the Muslim students at the university.

### Vocabulary

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Fill in the blanks with these vocabulary words.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
menu	choices of food on a piece of paper found at restaurants and cafeterias
Muslim	a follower of the religion, law or civilization of Islam
Halal	an animal (and its' meat) that was killed and prepared in a certain way, according to Islamic law
food court	A space in a shopping mall, or university that has a number of fast food stalls and many tables around for people to sit and eat at
certified	guaranteed, genuine and real with a certificate
faith	a belief in God, or the teachings of religion
upwards	towards a higher place

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**Driving force** – major influence

**Muslim Students Association** – a group of Muslim university students that have joined together and formed a club at the university of Calgary

1. Let's go to and grab a bite to eat in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Have you checked to see if they have hamburgers on the \_\_\_\_\_?
3. I am a strict Muslim, and I only eat \_\_\_\_\_ meats.
4. We grew up in Lebanon. We were raised as \_\_\_\_\_ and we have a strong belief in God.
5. There are \_\_\_\_\_ of 1000 people who are members in our church.
6. I am a \_\_\_\_\_ teacher because I went to school and got my teaching certificate.
7. My grandmother has a very strong \_\_\_\_\_ in God.

### **Listening Activity: Short Answer**

Listen to the third news story and answer the following questions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What is the new option available to Muslim students on the menu now?
2. Which food courts have the Halal meats?
3. What role did Zainab Malik play in the introduction of Halal meats in the food courts?
4. How were Muslim students getting away from their faith?
5. How many people are members of the Muslim Students Association?

**Discussion:** What restrictions do various religions around the world put on what people can/can't, or should/shouldn't do? What is your opinion on these restrictions? Do you restrict your diet in any way?

## Language Focus: Prepositions of Place: in, on and at

There are many prepositions and they serve many purposes, but this lesson will focus on three prepositions of place: in, on and at. Generally, we use the following prepositions for these purposes:

<b>in</b>	<b>on</b>	<b>at</b>
<b>For an enclosed space</b>	<b>For a surface</b>	<b>For a point or location</b>
<b>e.g.</b> <b>in Toronto</b> <b>in my house</b> <b>in the city</b>	<b>e.g.</b> <b>on the table</b> <b>on the wall</b> <b>on the test</b>	<b>e.g.</b> <b>at the door</b> <b>at the edge</b> <b>at the restaurant</b>

Look at the examples below taken from the news stories and decide which preposition would work best in the sentence. To check your answers do the following: once you have filled in your answers, go back and listen to the stories again and see if you can hear which preposition was used. Then, go to the appendix and look at the answers to see if you were right.

1. Since April 20 people have been red-flagged and tested for Ebola \_\_\_\_\_ Canada.
2. He added that travellers are being screened \_\_\_\_\_ the borders by both agents and airlines.
3. Premier Jim Prentice called four by-elections in Alberta today -- three \_\_\_\_\_ Calgary and one \_\_\_\_\_ Edmonton.
4. They've all tested negative \_\_\_\_\_ a national lab.
5. Prentice will try to win a seat \_\_\_\_\_ the legislature \_\_\_\_\_ Calgary Foothills.
6. Students \_\_\_\_\_ the University of Calgary now have one more option when it comes to the menu.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ one cafeteria -- the entire menu is certified as being 100 percent Halal.
8. Zainab Malik was the driving force behind getting Halal \_\_\_\_\_ the menu.
9. Malik says the Muslim Students Association \_\_\_\_\_ the U of C is among the biggest club \_\_\_\_\_ campus -- with upwards of 5-thousand members.

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER 3 <sup>RD</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of October 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	Alberta health officials are working to get the proper testing in place for any possible Ebola cases after the US reported the first Ebola patient diagnosed outside of West Africa. Canada's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Gregory Taylor, said that the risk of Ebola to Canadians is very low. He added that travellers are being screened at the borders by both agents and airlines. Since April 20 people have been red-flagged and tested for Ebola in Canada. They've all tested negative at a national lab.	0:08
Story 2	Premier Jim Prentice called four by-elections in Alberta today: three in Calgary and one in Edmonton. Prentice will try to win a seat in the legislature in Calgary Foothills. And the stakes are high for Prentice and his party with these by-elections. Political scientist Duane Bratt says the Tories should be safe to win in three of the four by-election ridings, but Calgary Elbow is more of a wild card. Bratt says one advantage to having several by-elections on one day is it spreads out the opposition forces, reducing the focus on Prentice, himself.	0:49
Story 3	Students at the University of Calgary now have one more option when it comes to the menu. For the first time -- Muslim students will now be able to find Halal meat in food courts throughout the campus. At one cafeteria, the entire menu is certified as being 100 percent Halal. Zainab Malik was the driving force behind getting Halal on the menu, and she says that it is important because a lot of the students were getting away from their faith by not eating Halal. Malik says the Muslim Students Association at the U of C is among the biggest club on campus, with upwards of 5-thousand members.	1:38

## Answer Key

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
<b>d</b>	1. proper	a) a sick or injured person who is admitted to stay in the hospital
<b>g</b>	2. possible	b) to look or check for something
<b>a</b>	3. patient	c) a person who has the power to act in some capacity
<b>f</b>	4. diagnose	d) appropriate or suitable for something; well fitted
<b>b</b>	5. screen	e) warning signs
<b>h</b>	6. border	f) to decide on the type of sickness or disease someone has
<b>c</b>	7. agent	g) may or can happen
<b>e</b>	8. red-flags	h) the edge of a district, or the division between two countries or areas

#### Listening and Taking Notes:

Who?	What?	Where?	When?	Why?
<b>Alberta health officials</b>	Getting proper testing in place for possible Ebola cases	In Alberta	After America reported their first Ebola case	So they are ready if any one comes to the hospital with Ebola
<b>Agents and airlines</b>	Screening people	At the border	Since April 20	So the virus doesn't get into Canada and get Canadians sick

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Words from the story	Related words
<b>d</b>	1. elections	a) unexpected unsure
<b>g</b>	2. legislature	b) bet wager
<b>b</b>	3. stakes	c) expand separate
<b>h</b>	4. riding	d) decision selection
<b>a</b>	5. wild card	e) other side rival



<b>c</b>	6. spread	f) make less lessen
<b>e</b>	7. opposition	g) lawmakers' house parliament
<b>f</b>	8. reduce	h) constituency electoral district/area

### Listening Activity: True/False

1. F Jim Prentice called for three by-elections in Alberta today.
2. F Prentice has a seat in the legislature in the Calgary Foothills.
3. T This election is high-stakes for Prentice and the others running in the by-election.
4. T Duane Bratt thinks the Tories will win in three quarters of the by-election ridings.
5. F Calgary Elbow is a wild card and it is likely that the Tories will win there.
6. T By having 4 elections on one day there will be less attention paid to Prentice.

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

1. Let's go to and grab a bite to eat in the food court,
2. Have you checked to see if they have hamburgers on the menu?
3. I am a strict Muslim and I only eat Halal meats,
4. We grew up in Lebanon and we were raised as Muslims and we have a strong belief in God.
5. There are upwards of 1000 people who are members in our church.
6. I am a certified teacher because I went to school and got my teaching certificate.
7. My grandmother has a very strong strong in God.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Listen to the third news story and answer the following questions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What is the new option available to Muslim students on the menu now? **Halal meats**
2. Which food courts have the Halal meats? **Food courts throughout campus (all over campus)**
3. What role did Zainab Malik play in the introduction of Halal meats in the food courts?  
**She was the driving force been it, so she played a big role**
4. How were Muslim students getting away from their faith? **By not eating Halal meats**
5. How many people are members of the Muslim Students Association? **More than 5,000**

### Language Focus:

1. Since April 20 people have been red-flagged and tested for Ebola in Canada.
2. He added that travellers are being screened at the borders by both agents and airlines.
3. Premier Jim Prentice called four by-elections in Alberta today -- three in Calgary and one in Edmonton.
4. They've all tested negative at a national lab.
5. Prentice will try to win a seat in the legislature in Calgary Foothills.
6. Students at the University of Calgary now have one more option when it comes to the menu.
7. At one cafeteria -- the entire menu is certified as being 100 percent Halal.
8. Zainab Malik was the driving force behind getting Halal on the menu.
9. Malik says the Muslim Students Association at the U of C is among the biggest club on campus -- with upwards of 5-thousand members.